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29 Mar. 21

For Mrs Co Tomlinson Chatham

Miss Keats

at Mr Abbys

Pancras Lane

London

12 o'Clock
MR 29
1821 Nil

FV
28 MR

Vir
WK.
15 o'CLOCK

(28 March 1821)

Tuesday Afternoon

You will forgive me I am sure, my dear Fanny, that
I did not write to you before. I could not for my own
ake and I would not for yours, as it was better you
hould be prepared for what, even knowing as much
s you did, you could not expect. I should like
h hear that you my dearest sister are well. for myself
I am patient, resigned, very resigned. I know my
Keats is happy, happier a thousand times than
he could have been here, for Fanny you do not, you
ever can know how much he has suffered. So much —

will, I assure you be a real favor. And yet I hardly like to press you
to make such a dull visit. I once hoped for a very different one from
you, I used to anticipate the pleasure I should feel in showing
every kindness and attention in my power to you. And I felt so happy
when he desired me to write to you while he was away. I little thought
how it would turn out. I have just recollected that perhaps you will
not wish to come out so soon. Fix your own time my dear, only come.
Will you have the kindness to write to me, by return of post, if you
can, to say if Friday will be too soon for you to see my mother, and if
you will come and when. I ask you with more confidence though

that I do believe were it in my power I would not bring him back. All that grieves me now is that I was not with him, and so near it as I was. Some day my dear girl I will tell you the reason and give you additional cause to hate those who should have been his friends and yet it was a great deal through his kindness for me for the present what would happen, then at least was never deceived about his complaint though the Doctors were ignorant and unfeeling enough to send him to that wretched country to die, for it is now known that his recovery was impossible before he left us, and he might have died there with so many

there is little or nothing to amuse with us, because I have heard you lead a very dull life in Mrs Abbys family – but we will do as much as we can to amuse you and to prevent your thinking of any thing to make you unhappy. You must consider my brother as more than a stranger for your brother loved her very much, and used often to wish she could go with him and had he returned I should have been his wife and she would have lived with us. All all now in vain – could we have foreseen – but he did foresee and every one thought it was only his habit of looking for the worst — Though you are the only person in the world I wish to see, I will own I do not expect it.

prevailed to soothe him and me with him. All we have to console ourselves with is the great joy he felt that all his misfortunes were at an end. At the very last he said "I am dying thank God the time is come." and in a letter from Mr Severn written about a fortnight before he died and which was not shown me, so that I thought he would live months at least if he did not recover he says "he is still alive & calm, if I say more it will be too much. yet at times I have thought him better but he would not hear of it, the thought of recovery is beyond every thing dreadful to him - we now dare not perceive any improvements for the hope of death seems his only comfort. he talks of the quiet grave as the first rest he can ever have" - In that letter he mentions that he had given directions how he would be buried

Your Guardian is said to be so much more than strict, and was so particular in refusing to let your brother take you out, that I have not the least hope. but as much as we can do shall, with your consent, be tried and if it is in vain I will, before you leave London, call on you — If Mr Abby should so far think of it as to ask who we are, you may if you like say my Mother is a widow and has two children besides me, both very young — send me an answer as soon as you can conveniently — My Mother desires her love to you and I send a thousand good wishes to my dear sister God bless her

Frances Brawne

the purse you sent him and your last letter (which he
never read, for he would never open either your letter
or mine after he left England) with some hair, I believe
of mine he desired to be placed in his coffin. The truth
is I cannot very well go on at present with this, and the
time I will tell you more — what I wish ~~xxx~~ to say
now relates to yourself, my Mother is coming to see you very
soon. If you are in Pancrass lane she will call next Friday
that is if it be not disagreeable to Mr Abby. Do you think he
would allow you to stay with us a short time? I have decided my
Mother to ask him though I do not know how she will
prevail on herself to do it for she is affraid of him. but Mr
Dilke will be with her to give her courage — And now my
dear I must hope you will favor me with your company, it

I have recollected that perhaps you are in the country and will not have time to write so I will say Monday next for my Mother to see you instead of Friday. Should the day be Wednesday will be better and so on till the first fine day unless you are thereby engaged which you must let me know

Hampstead May 23rd 1821

My dear Fanny

I find by my pocket book it is above 2 weeks since I received your letter and I am afraid you must have thought me negligent in not writing before but as I have been staying that time in London and wished, when I did write to mention several things I put it off till I should be by myself at home. In the first place only think of that Mrs Abbey after her promises to my Mother behaving as she has done. Not that I expected any thing better from her. Oh my dear, what a woman for a girl to be bought up with the description I have had of her manners and conversation has quite shocked me. For you to look forward to 3 years more of it is headful. I find from my Mother that Mrs Dilke was foolish enough to mention me to her in the way I so much

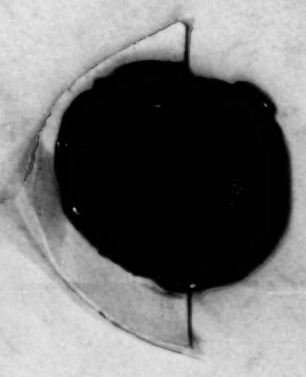
you might wish to see. but if you do, you must prepare for great pain. if you would rather not make yourself again unhappy, do not read it. I think you will be wise. It took me a long time to write. I have not looked at it since, not do I mean to do so, present. but I mention it to you because though it gives pain, it also gives a certain pleasure in letting us know how glad he was to die at the last. Dear Fanny, no one but your can feel with me — All his friends have forgotten him they have done the same, which do not wonder at, for them is all. They think. I have done the foot shock, and that with I taken news, to trouble them with any feeling of mine, but I can tell you who next to me I must say next to me I loved him best that I have not over it and never shall. Is better for me that I should not forget him but not for you. you have other things to look forward to — and I would not have said any thing about him for I offered to disappointing you but I did not like to write to you without letting

wished to avoid. but she appeared to know it already and my Mother suspects from other things that passed, that she has read some of our letters. Do you think it possible, that she or any one of the family could get at them? You must know best. if you are sure it could not be the case I shall know my Mother was mistaken and that Mrs. A. must have obtained her knowledge by some other means for you see she was better acquainted with Mrs. Cornish than you supposed indeed I should not have mentioned it at all but to put you on your guard. Should my opinion of her ever come to her ears she would prevent all intercourse between us, and really I could hardly blame her for so doing. When you write mention some day for your being in town with the hour you are sure of Mr. Abbey being at home and I will try what I can do with him. If there is any better plan you can think of. if it would be better to call on Mr. Abbey when you are

you know I felt about him and leaving it to you with the subject should all be mentioned in our letters. In a letter you sent one time to you mentioned your brother George in a manner that made me think you had been mistaken about him. He is no favorite of mine and he never liked me so that I am not likely to say too much in his favor from affection for him, but I must say I think he is more blamed than he should be. I think him extravagant and selfish but people in their great zeal make him out much worse than that. Tom dies, my dear John, or Mr. Abbey in his favour. At that time wrote to him offering him any assistance and money in his favour. Tom died, my dear John, or Mr. Abbey in his favour. At that time he was not engaged to me and having just lost one brother felt all his affection turned towards the one that remained. George I dare say at first had no thoughts of accepting this offer but when his affairs did not succeed and he had a wife and one child to support, with the prospect of another, I cannot wonder

not in town. I will do that. I wish you more than ever to be with one, were it but for a short time with it. I shall not be if I can persuade him to any thing. Do you not think, my dear, a little complaisance on your part might do something. But perhaps you dare not sound him on the subject and if it would be very unpleasant to you do not attempt it. At all events I shall wait for your letter before I do any thing. I thought when I began to write that I had a great deal to say and now I find I have half filled this letter without a word of what I have intended. I have not mentioned your brother. To no one but you would I mention him. I will suffer no one but you to speak to me of him. They are too uninterested in him to have any right to mention him. That is and to you & me, so great a loss. I have a letter from Mr. Severn giving an account of the last days of his life. No one knows I have it but you, and I had not sealed it up, as I thought

that he should consider them first and as he could not get what he wanted without coming to England he unfortunately came — by that time your brother wished to marry himself but he could not refuse the money. It may appear very bad in George to leave them 60 pounds when he owed 80 but he had many reasons to suppose the inconvenience would not last long. Your brother had a book of poems nearly ready to come out which his illness kept back till the summer, he had a tragedy which Mr. Brown calculated his share of would be about two hundred pounds and he was writing a story which had he lived to finish would if the other failed make up for it: at least so every one imagined. — George could not foresee his illness — He might be a cause of the dreadful consequence but surely a very indirect and accidental one. At the same time I cannot defend him lately his behaviour had been very selfish and I may say shuffling. As to his returning the money I don't believe he has ever had it in his power to return a farthing or ever will. ... have. That may not be his fault



the person who suffered most never thought so very badly of it he used to say. "George ought not to have done this he should have recollected that I wish to marry myself - but I suppose having a family to provide for makes a man selfish" - They tell me that latterly he thought worse of George, but I own I do not believe it - The thing is against him. I dont think he could ever have supposed it would be in his power to return the money, at the best not for many years - his brother never expected it at all. he always said he would not succeed - If when I write again I think of any thing for or against him I shall mention it - For I wish at any rate to put you on your guard - I have said I think him selfish and I am affraid whenever you have your money in your own power you will find him troublesome but my dear girl be very cautious - be warned by what has already happened - and remember he is extravagant at least every one says so. I don't know whether you will be able to unravel and read all this - write as soon as you can - ever your affectionate sister and friend - Fanny -

For

Miss Keats
Richard Abbey Esq
Walthamstow Essex

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T·P
[illegible]mond St

21 May 21

4 o'Clock
21·MY
1821 EV.

has already happened – and remember he is extravagant.
At least every one says so. I don't know whether you will